

decennial census operations. According to the 1991 Census the literacy rate in the country was 52.21%. a *statement* showing State-wise literacy rate is enclosed.

(b) The target fixed was to cover 345 districts during the Eighth Five-Year Plan and make 100 million people functionally literate. The target age-group under the literacy campaigns is 15-35 years. Children in 9-14 age-group are also covered wherever the scheme of Non-Formal Education is not operational or its coverage is inadequate

(c) Total Literacy Campaigns have been launched in 401 districts of 26 States/UTs. According to the reports received as of 31st March, 1996 about 53.19 million persons have been made literate of which an estimated 62% of the learners are women, 21% belong to SCs and 10% to STs

(d) An allocation of Rs. 1400 crores has been made for all literacy programmes during the Eighth Five-Year Plan. No State-wise allocations are made and funds are released on the basis of requirements of the State Governments and the proposals for TLCs/PLCs received from various districts

(e) The special measures which are being taken for the efficient implementation of the literacy programmes include the following :

- (i) Decentralisation and devolution of powers to State Literacy Mission Authorities (SLMAs). The SLMAs are being set up in all the States/UTs to implement the literacy programmes
- (ii) Involvement of Panchayati Raj Institutions in the literacy programmes and sensitization of Panchayati Raj functionaries as well as elected representatives
- (iii) Launching of 'Operation Restoration' in those districts which have not been able to achieve desired objectives

#### STATEMENT

*Literacy rate based on the 1991 Census*

| India/States or Union Territory |                   | Literacy rate |
|---------------------------------|-------------------|---------------|
| 1                               | 2                 | 3             |
|                                 | INDIA             | 52.21         |
|                                 | <b>States</b>     |               |
| 1                               | Andhra Pradesh    | 44.09         |
| 2                               | Arunachal Pradesh | 41.59         |
| 3                               | Assam             | 52.89         |
| 4                               | Bihar             | 38.48         |

| 1                 | 2                | 3     |
|-------------------|------------------|-------|
| 5.                | Delhi            | 75.29 |
| 6.                | Goa              | 75.51 |
| 7.                | Gujarat          | 61.29 |
| 8.                | Haryana          | 55.85 |
| 9.                | Himachal Pradesh | 63.86 |
| 10.               | Karnataka        | 56.04 |
| 11.               | Kerala           | 89.81 |
| 12.               | Madhya Pradesh   | 44.20 |
| 13.               | Maharashtra      | 64.87 |
| 14.               | Manipur          | 59.89 |
| 15.               | Meghalaya        | 49.10 |
| 16.               | Mizoram          | 82.27 |
| 17.               | Nagaland         | 61.65 |
| 18.               | Orissa           | 49.09 |
| 19.               | Punjab           | 58.51 |
| 20.               | Rajasthan        | 38.55 |
| 21.               | Sikkim           | 56.94 |
| 22.               | Tamil Nadu       | 62.66 |
| 23.               | Tripura          | 60.44 |
| 24.               | Uttar Pradesh    | 41.60 |
| 25.               | West Bengal      | 57.70 |
| UNION TERRITORIES |                  |       |
| 1.                | A & N Islands    | 73.02 |
| 2.                | Chandigarh       | 77.81 |
| 3.                | D & N Haveli     | 40.71 |
| 4.                | Daman & Diu      | 71.20 |
| 5.                | Lakshadweep      | 81.78 |
| 6.                | Pondicherry      | 74.74 |

#### Mid-Day Meal Scheme

\*66. SHRI S. D. N. R. WADIYAR : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have reviewed the mid-day meal scheme launched in different States

(b) if so, the details thereof, and

(c) the steps taken to enhance Central assistance and to make improvements in the programme?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S. R. BOMMAI) : (a) and (b) The National Programme of Nutritional Support to Primary Education commonly known as the Mid-day Meal Scheme, was started very recently i.e. on 15th August, 1995 and therefore, no formal review of the programme has yet been undertaken. The implementation of the programme is, however, being monitored both by the State Governments and the Central Government

(c) With the expansion of the programme, Central assistance is projected to increase from Rs. 441.38 crores in 1995-96 to Rs. 1400 crores in 1996-97.

In keeping with the objectives of the programme, State Governments have been requested to provide hot cooked meals to primary school children at the earliest.

[Translation]

#### Closure of Coal Mines

\*67. SHRI RAMENDRA KUMAR : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether 72 coal mines are lying closed in Bihar after the nationalisation of coal mines;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government have received any proposal from the Government of Bihar for re-opening the closed mines in Bihar; and

(d) if so, the decision taken by the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) : (a) to (d). In 1992, a Joint Inspection Team (JIT) was set up with the representatives of Government of Bihar and Coal India Limited to identify the closed mines in Bihar. The JIT identified 10 closed coal mines of Central Coalfields Limited and 5 closed coal mines of Eastern Coalfields Limited. The Government of Bihar had made a proposal that the Government of India should permit a lease to the Bihar State Mineral Development Corporation (BSMDC) to operate these mines. Of these 15 mines, only Jagaldaga satisfies the conditions of the Coal Mining Policy laid down by the Government of India on handing over coal mines to State Governments. Consultation is going on with the State Government regarding this case and no decision has been taken by Government. Regarding the other 14 mines too, consultation will be held with the State Government at the earliest to examine the prospect of handing over these mines to Bihar State Mineral Development Corporation.

#### National Policy of Water Management

\*68. SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY :  
SHRI KASHI RAM RANA :

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state

(a) whether the Government propose to formulate a national policy with regard to water sharing and water management,

(b) if so the details thereof, and

(c) the time by which such policy is likely to be announced?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA) : (a) Yes, Sir. A national policy on water sharing and water management is being devised.

(b) A Statement is enclosed.

(c) The draft National Policy guidelines for sharing of inter-State river Waters and Irrigation Management Policy as finalised by the National Water Board were discussed in the third meeting of National Water Resources Council held on 6th February, 1996 at New Delhi. It was generally suggested that these draft policies should be reviewed and modified before further consideration and adoption by the National Water Resources Council. It is not possible to indicate a time by which the policy guidelines is likely to be announced since discussions on the subject are likely to be lengthy and time-consuming.

#### STATEMENT

(i) Main features of the draft National Policy Guidelines for allocation of waters of inter-State rivers amongst States are as under :

- \* The river basin will be reckoned as a unit for inter-State water allocation.
- \* All co-basin States and the Centre would be parties to the process of allocation
- \* Allocation to consider the reasonable possibility of utilisation.
- \* Allocation to be based on the principle of equitable apportionment
- \* States will be free to utilise their share in any way without conflicting with the overriding national interest
- \* Inter-State agreements between all the co-basin States are normally to be accommodated.
- \* Existing pre-plan uses and approved plan uses are to be protected
- \* Allocation to consider needs for environmental management, navigation in National waterways and pressing needs of non-co-basin state etc. as National interests
- \* Setting up monitoring and implementing mechanism to oversee allocations as made
- \* Water allocation normally to be reviewed after 40 years

(ii) Main features envisaged in the draft Irrigation Management Policy are as under :

- \* Water management should aim at maximising agricultural production in irrigated areas
- \* Lower distribution system comprising